CUP. 21 g. 28 / 56

Civitas BRISTOL.

Tempore PETRI DAY, *Ar' Major*, XIV° *Die* Decembris *Anno Regni Dom'* GEORGII *Decimo Tertio*, *Annoq*; *Domini*, MDCCXXVI.

WHEREAS there is and hath been, Time out of Mind, a good, antient, and laudable Cuſtom, had and uſed within the late Borough, and now City of BRISTOL, and the Liberties thereof, That no Perſon (not being Free of the ſaid late Borough, or now City) did or could keep any Shop within the late Borough, and now City of BRISTOL, or the Liberties thereof, for the ſelling, or expoſing to ſale therein (either by Wholeſale or Retail) any Goods, Wares, or Merchandizes whatſoever, or therein to uſe any Trade, Myſtery, or Handicraft whatſoever. And *Whereas* ſeveral good By-Laws have been here made for the confirming, ſtrengthning and enforcing of the ſaid Cuſtom, but the ſame have hitherto proved ineffectual; it is *Therefore* by the now MAYOR, Aldermen, and Common-Council of the ſaid City, thereto duely elected, nominated and appointed, and now in Common-Council duely aſſembled, ordained and eſtabliſhed, That if any Perſon or Perſons (not being Free of the ſaid City of BRISTOL, ſhall after the Five and Twentieth Day of *March* next enſuing, by any Colour, Way or Means whatſoever, either directly or indirectly, by him, her, or themſelves, or by any other, keep any Shop or Shops within the ſaid City of BRISTOL, or Liberties thereof, for the ſelling or expoſing to Sale (either by Wholeſale or Retail) any Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, or therein to uſe any Trade, Myſtery, or Handicraft whatſoever; the ſaid Perſon and Perſons reſpectively ſhall forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds, of lawful Money of *Great-Britain*, for every Time wherein ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall offend in the Premiſes, or any of them; which Forfeiture ſhall be levied and recovered by Diſtreſs, or by Action of Debt, Bill or Plaint, to be taken, commenced, ſued and proſecuted by the Chamberlain of the ſaid City for the Time being; and, when recovered, after all Coſts for recovering the ſame deducted, one Moiety or half Part thereof ſhall be paid unto and remain in the Hands of the MAYOR of this City for the Time being, to and for the Uſe of ſuch Poor as ſhall caſually paſs through this City to their reſpective Places of Abode, and be in want of Subſiſtance, to be diſtributed unto or among them, from Time to Time, in ſueh Proportions as the ſaid MAYOR and one or more of the Aldermen of this City ſhall direct and appoint: And the other Moiety thereof to be paid unto the Perſon or Perſons who ſhall Inform of the ſaid Offence or Offences.

CANN.